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TEMPORAL LOBE SIGNS AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS

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Summary.—Mature university students (14 men and 16 women) were asked to complete the 16 PF and a scale that samples temporal lobe signs in the normal population. People who reported frequent temporal lobe experiences were more emotionally unstable, impulsive, emotionally sensitive (imaginative inner self, actions based upon intuition and self-anxiety), and tense (free-floating anxiety). The results were compatible with personality characteristics of people who report "temporal lobe experiences" and have been assessed by the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory and the California Personality Inventory.

Experiences associated with temporal lobe stimulation are frequently reported in the normal population (Persinger & Makarec, 1987). Normal people with no history of clinical seizures and who report an above average number of these experiences display more alpha activity over the temporal lobes (Makarec & Persinger, 1985) and report more paranormal experiences, sense of "presence", and widening of affect (Persinger & Makarec, 1987) than people with less copious alpha profiles. As expected from the work of Murray and Mishkin (1985), people who display frequent amygdaloid signs within the temporal lobe profile also show enhanced delayed cross-modal (tactile to visual) matching (Sabourin & Persinger, 1987). Temporal lobe signs are negatively correlated with well being, tolerance, and achievement-independence scales from the California Personality Inventory and positively correlated with hypomania, schizophrenia and *F* (frequency) scales of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (Persinger & Makarec, 1987).

The purpose of the present study was to determine the relationship between temporal lobe signs and the factors of the Cattell 16 PF inventory. If the previous research is consistent, then people who report more temporal lobe signs should also demonstrate lower C scores (emotionally unstable) but higher F (impulsivity), I (tender-mindedness), M (imagination), and Q4 (free-floating anxiety) scores than those people who report fewer temporal lobe signs. Thirty mature students (14 men and 16 women), aged 18 to 45 yr., who were taking an introductory psychology course (entire class) served as subjects; there was no history of epilepsy. The subjects were given the 16 PF and the Personal Philosophy Inventory at a single setting. From the latter the 16 items that composed the complex partial epileptic signs cluster and the

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16 items from the control cluster (Persinger & Makarec, 1987) were selected for this analysis. The score was the percentage of yes responses per cluster. Spearman correlations were performed by SPSS^x software (NONPARR CORR) between each of the 16 factors and the control and complex partial-epileptic clusters.

The only statistically significant ($p < .05$) correlations occurred between the CPES cluster and Factor C (—0.51), Factor F (0.30), Factor I (0.40), and Q4 (0.38). These results indicated that normal people who report more ictal-like temporal lobe signs are more (a) emotionally unstable (become emotional when frustrated, easily perturbed, "low ego strength", get into fights), (b) impulsive (talkative, cheerful), (c) emotionally sensitive (imaginative inner self, act on sensitive intuition, anxious about self, attention-seeking, expect affection), and (d) more tense (free-floating anxiety). The only significant correlations between the cluster of control items and the 16 factors were with N (—0.51) and Q1 (—0.49). This suggests that people who simply respond yes to items are more forthright, unpretentious and less rebellious than those who do not; however, this was not related to the propensity for temporal lobe signs. Except for the lack of significant correlation between temporal lobe signs and Factor M, the hypotheses were confirmed.

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